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ORASMOCHE as by dyuerse and sondy occasions, as well hearynge, lynes, saltfyshe, samond, stockfyshe, as other kyndes of fyshe, ben this yere skant, and also enhanced in prices aboute the old rate and comen estimation of theyr valour: so that if the kynges lounge subiectes shoulde be enforced onely to bye and prouyde hearynge and other salte stowe of fyshe, for the necessarye and sufficient sustentation and mayntenaunce of theyr householdes and samyles, all this holy tyme of Lent, accordyng as they haue ben wont in tymes past to do, and shulde not be, by some other honest meanes releued therin, the same myght and shoulde undoubtedly redounde to their importable charge and detrimente. And for as moche as his hyghnesse consydereth, howe this kynde and maner of fastyng, that is to say, to absteyne frome mylke, butter, egges, and chese, and all other whyte meates, is but a mere posytrue lawe of the Church, and vsed by a custome within this realme, and of none other sorte or necessitie, but the same maye be vpon good considerations and groundes altered and dispensed with from tyme to tyme by the publyque auctoritie of kynges and princis, whan so euer they shal perceyue the same to tende to the hurte and damage of their people. The kynges hyghnesse therfore mooste graciously consyderynge and tenderynge the wealth and commoditie of his people, hath thought good, for the considerations aboue reherced, to release and dispense with the sayde lawe and custome of absteynyng from whyte meates this holy tyme of Lent, And of his especiall grace and mere motion gyueth and graunteth vnto all and synghular his subiectes within this his realme of Englande, Wales, Isles, Guyenes, Hammes, and in al other his graces dominions, free libertie, facultie, and licence, to eat all maner of white meates, as mylke, egges, butter, chese, and suche lyke, durynge the tyme of this lent, without any scruple or grudge of conscience: any lawe, constitution, vse or custome to the contrary not withstandynge. wherin neuer the lesse his hyghnesse exhorteth, and in the name of god requireth, al suche his faythful subiectes, as may, woll, or shall enjoy this his sayde graunte or facultie, that they be in no wyse scruple or doubtefull therof, nor abuse or tourne the same into a fleshely or carnal libertie: but rather endeuour them selues to theyr possible powers with this libertie of eatynge of whyte meates, to obserue also that faste, whiche god most specially requireth of them: That is to say, to renounce the woylde, and the deuyl, with al their pompes and workes, and also to subdewe and represseth theyr carnall affections, and the corrupte workes of their flesh, accordyng to theyr vow and profession made at the font stone. For in these poyntes speciallye consisteth the very true and persyte abstinence and fastyng of a Chysten man.

GOD SAVE THE KYNGE.



Thomas Berthelet Regius impressor excudebat.

CVM PRIVILEGIO.